

## Aged care reforms require robust support

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Reforms aimed at improving safety and quality in aged care announced yesterday are welcome but must be backed by stronger standards and more resources, the Consumers Health Forum said.

“The establishment of an independent Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission and increased transparency on quality standards are welcome steps in the announcement by the Aged Care Minister, Ken Wyatt,” the CEO of the Consumers Health Forum, Leanne Wells, said.

“We particularly welcome the introduction of truly unannounced visits as providing a real snapshot of the care that is provided.

“We hope that the new Commission will see the value of having consumers as part of the accreditation and inspection teams as they can help frame discussions with consumers about their real experience of care.

“These new measures need to be supported by robust and effective standards. If the standards are weak then the system is weakened too.

“It is also clear that without better resourcing and staffing, many nursing homes will continue to struggle to provide the care we would expect for older Australians.”

ENDS

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